Complaints from Managers of Aided Schools.

37. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Government has received representations from the Managers of aided schools in the State complaining of the departmental interference in the matter of suspension or dismissal of teachers in such schools ;

(b) whether the Managers generally have not resented this interference;

(c) how long is it since this was brought into force ;

(d) what were the particular reasons for its introduction?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) Managers have resented such departmental interference

(c) Since 1102.

(d) The need for intervention arose, as it continually arises, on account of complaints from aided school teachers. There have also been other reasons for increased departmental intervention. Government have a duty to see that the funds they disburse are properly spent, that the elementary rights of the child are protected, etc.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—What is the abuse of disbursements that is sought to be prevented ? What sort of abuse ?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Sir, disbursements in the shape of grants are governed by certain conditions. The schools must fulfil certain conditions before they can claim full grant. It has been brought to the notice of the Government from time to time that these conditions are tampered with; that attendance registers are not properly maintained, that acquittances are not properly kept and these questions called for our intervention, I would not use the word interference. Government intervention is rendered necessary on account of these irregularities.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—By intervening in the matter of dismissal and suspension of teachers, does the Government think that the sort of abuses of powers in the management can be remedied ?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—The question of disbursements is not the only irregularity. The Hon'ble Member will find from the answer that there are other irregularities besides suspension, degradation and dismissal of teachers, against which Government have to guard.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know what they are ? The complaint is with regard to departmental intervention as regards dismissal and suspension of teachers of the aided schools. The rule with regard to intervention says that

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the Manager is to get the sanction of the department before they proceed to dismiss or suspend a teacher. The question is where is the necessity. The various things that are sought to be stopped by the intervention will not arise in the case of dismissal and suspension.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—It will arise in this way as it has arisen in recent instances which are under correspondence. Some managers dismiss or suspend teachers who have been on the staff of the establishment for many years. The real reason is that some relatives of some of these managers come qualified themselves for jobs. I have got in mind two definite instances which have come to my notice. It is just to dispense with the services of these old teachers on some trivial charge; and since the department has prescribed not merely the minimum qualification, but also the minimum wage and the conditions of labour of this profession, it appears to me that the Government stands committed to have recourse to intervention. No Government which prescribes the conditions of labour in any trade, industry or profession can at the same time shirk the responsibility to see that these prescribed conditions are enforced.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—By this intervention on the part of the Government does not the Government know that the morale of the school is going down?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Government interferes to restore the morale of the school and the intervention to a certain extent lower the efficiency of the management and Government have in view some arrangement by means of which this constant intervention may be stopped. But as long as the prescribed conditions and rules are in existence Government cannot consistently with the responsibility handle the situation in any other way. I would like to submit that if the managers find this intervention meddlesome, it is much more vexatious to the department.

Special allotment for Public Works in Cranganur.

38.Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) the date on which the special allotment of Rs. 5,000 was sanctioned for Public Works in Cranganur;

(2) the details of works effected till date and their costs?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(1) 26th June 1930. The special allotment was Rs. 50,000 not Rs. 5,000,

(2) A statement is appended. (*Vide Appendix I.*)

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